

59. The granule of claim 57, wherein said binder comprises a sugar or sugar alcohol.

60. The granule of claim 59, wherein said binder comprises a sugar.

61. The granule of claim 60, wherein said sugar comprises sucrose.

62. The granule of claim 57, wherein said structuring agent comprises a polysaccharide or polypeptide.

63. The granule of claim 62, wherein said structuring agent comprises a polysaccharide.

64. The granule of claim 63, wherein said polysaccharide comprises a starch.

65. The granule of claim 57, wherein said binder comprises a sugar or sugar alcohol, and said structuring agent comprises a polysaccharide.--

COMMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended to correct for a minor typographical error.

New claims 57-65 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found, for example, in original claims 1, 2, 3, 5; and in the specification at page 7, lines 10-11, and at page 8, lines 26-28.

Claims 1-65 are now present in the application. Examination on the merits is requested.

Restriction Requirement

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant elects Group II.

Applicant notes that, with respect to Groups I and II, the Examiner mentions "disaccharide" in setting forth the restriction requirement. Applicant points out that the relevant claims are drawn to sugars in general (e.g., monosaccharides, as well), not necessarily disaccharides.

Species Requirement

Responsive to the Species Requirement, of Group II, Applicant provisionally makes the following elections:

As to a structural agent, Applicant elects the species "starch," the claims readable thereon being claims 1, 2, 3, 23, 24, 25, 57, 62, 63, 64, and 65.

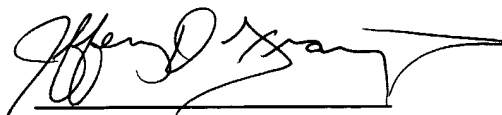
Applicant notes that the Examiner mentions claim 5 as setting forth exemplary structural agents. Applicant points out that claim 5 specifies sugars, not structural agents.

As to a synthetic polymer, Applicant elects the species "polyvinyl alcohol," the claims readable thereon being claims 1, 6, 23, and 28.

As to a coating, Applicant elects the species "methylcellulose," the claims readable thereon being claims 1, 8, 11, 23, 30, and 33.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 846-7615.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 6, 1999

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